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HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1917.

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Applicants will be required to produce
Passports or identification papers. All
persons, with certain exceptions, who
remain in the Colony for more than
7 days are required to register them-
selves under the REGISTRATION OF
PERSONS ORDINANCE 1915. Forms
of Registration giving the particulars
required may be obtained at the G.P.O.
and at all Police Stations.
The Penalty for non-compliance is a
fine not exceeding \$50.

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7.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes.
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10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes.
11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
1.45 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
2.15 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
3.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
NIGHT CARS.
8.50 p.m. and 9 p.m. 9.30 p.m. to 11.00
p.m. every half hour.
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an hour.
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7.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Every 15 minutes.
10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Every 10 minutes.
11.30 a.m. to 12 Noon. Every 15 minutes.
12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
5.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
8.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
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Extra Car at 12 midnight.

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Season and punch tickets available for
all cars not already full running at the
time stated in the Company's time tables,
but not for special cars, can be obtained
on application at the Company's Office.
No Season ticket will be issued until
payment therefor has been made in Bank
Notes or by Cheque or Comptroller order
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Hongkong, April 11, 1912.



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Hongkong, April 1, 1913

WONG PING WA, Manager.

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THE WAR.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

THE GREAT RETREAT.

SENSATIONAL REPORTS.

THE BEGINNING OF VERY GREAT
EVENTS.

PARIS, March 14.

The great German retreat before the
British is the only topic here.

The air is full of sensational reports
that the retreat is turning into a
debacle under the unremitting activity
of the pursuers—who are superior both
in material and initiative.

It is impossible at present to say how
far these reports are true, but undoubtedly
the British continue advancing to the
north-east and east of Gommescourt.

We are probably witnessing the
beginning of very great events involving
more than the fall of Bapaume.

THE ADVANCE ON BAPAUME.

IMPORTANT MOVEMENTS
PENDING.

LONDON, March 13.

Correspondents at the British
Headquarters report that the British
guns made the fortified Loupart
Wood untenable. When our patrols
advanced after a sustained bombard-
ment on March 8 they found the
wood empty. Passing through, they
entered the fortress at Grevillers,
meeting with but slight opposition.
Field howitzers and bombing patrols
followed up the Germans, who were
retiring from Bapaume ridge very
speedily, swarming on their heels
day and night, pressing them back
to the railway.

Our troops were very enthusiastic
on entering what is practically un-
damaged country. From Grevillers
they could see the still unbroken
roofs and chimneys of half a dozen
villages west and north of Bapaume,
surrounded by green fields and
undamaged roads. The next drive
should take the British there.

The glimpse of this panorama
stirred the imagination of our troops.
Never since 1914 have the infantry
so interestedly watched the work of
our gunners.

The Correspondents agree that im-
portant movements are impending
in which the enemy are likely to be
damaged severely.

GERMAN COUNTER-ATTACKS AGAINST THE FRENCH.

ENEMY SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES.

LONDON, March 14.

A French communiqué states:
Between Ette-du-Maisnil and Maisons-
de-Champagne the Germans delivered
two violent counterattacks against the
works we captured to the left of the
sector. The enemy were unable to
reach our positions anywhere and
sustained heavy losses.

Throughout the night an obstinate
grenade struggle continued between
Hill 185 and Maisons-de-Champagne
where we captured more trenches.

Between the Meuse and Apremont
our troops penetrated the German
trenches at four points reaching their
second line and capturing some
prisoners.

GERMAN REPORT.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

A Berlin communiqué states:
In the Aisne region the English
stacked, without artillery prepara-

tion, between Achiet-le-Petit and
Grevillers; also at night-time after
heavy fire on both sides of the
Bucquoy. They were heavily re-
pulsed. We took 50 prisoners.

In the Champagne, battles con-
tinued south of Ripout with varying
success.

French thrusts near St. Mihiel
failed.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.
We captured 250 Russians and
several machine-guns on the
Narajowka.

BALKAN FRONT.
French thrusts between Ochrida
and Prespa Lake and strong enemy
attacks north of Monastir failed.

MESOPOTAMIA.

ADVANCED DETACHMENTS 30 MILES BEYOND BAGDAD

BRITISH GUNS LOST AT KUT
RECOVERED.

LONDON, March 14.

An official report from Mes-
opotamia states:
Our advanced detachments are
thirty miles up stream from Bagdad.

Steps are being taken to prevent
the flooding of the city during the
coming rise in the river.

The small-arms factory in Bagdad
has been left in good repair.

The railway workshops contain
uninjured, good and serviceable
machinery, five locomotives and
rolling stock.

Our guns lost at Kut in 1916 have
been recovered in Bagdad.

AMERICAN STEAMER SUNK.

SHELLED BY GERMAN
SUBMARINE.

LONDON, March 14.

The American steamer *Algonquin*,
1,800 tons, bound from New York to
London, and flying the American flag,
and carrying foodstuffs, has been sunk by
shell-fire and bombs by a German
submarine.

The submarine opened fire at a range
of three miles firing twenty shells with-
out warning.

The commander refused to tow the
lifeboats towards land. The crew were
saved.

COUNT BERNSTORF REACHES GERMANY.

LONDON, March 14.

Count Bernstorff, ex-Ambassador to
Washington, has arrived in Berlin.

GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN GENERALS CONFER.

BERLIN, March 12.

A Berlin Correspondent states that
Marshal von Hindenburg and General
Ludenborff are conferring with the
Austrian Generals Hottendorff and
von Arz at the German Headquar-
ters, regarding the impending opera-
tions on the Italian western fronts.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE OF CREDIT

LONDON, March 13.

It is understood that the supple-
mentary vote of credit announced
by Mr. Bonar Law, Chancellor of the
Exchequer, will be for £50,000,000.

(Continued on Page 5.)

INTIMATIONS

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT
COMPANY, LIMITED & REDUCED.

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Office of the Company, St. George's Buildings, Water Road, Victoria, Hongkong, on TUESDAY, the 27th day of March, 1917 at 11.30 a.m. for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December, 1916, and declaring a Dividend.

By Order of
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
Hongkong, March 6, 1917. 1535

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT
COMPANY, LIMITED & REDUCED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED on THURSDAY, 1st March to SATURDAY, 31st March, 1917, both days inclusive. The return of Capital of \$2.50 per share will be paid to Shareholders on and after the 15th March, 1917, on presentation of Share Certificates for endorsement.

By Order of
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
Hongkong, Feb. 22, 1917. 1532

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY,
LIMITED.

THE THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the General Managers at 11.30 a.m. on WEDNESDAY, 22nd March, 1917, to receive a Statement of the Company's Accounts to 31st December, 1916 and the Report of the General Managers. The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to 28th instant both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.
General Managers.
Hongkong, March 8, 1917. 1532

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FORTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the General Managers at 11.30 a.m. on FRIDAY, the 30th instant, at 11.30 a.m. for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1916.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to 28th instant, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.
General Managers.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company Ltd.
Hongkong, March 8, 1917. 1530

CHINA SUGAR REFINING
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTY-NINTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF the SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Office of the General Managers, 10, Queen's Road, on FRIDAY, the 30th instant, at 11.30 a.m. for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1916.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to 28th March both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.
General Managers.
Hongkong, March 9, 1917. 1535

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COAL.

THE Underwriter having been appointed by the HONGKONG COAL CO., LTD., to sell for best quality SILIMPON COAL, and to give good results on a very moderate consumption.

Steamers calling at SEBATTIK or SANDAKAN exclusively for SILIMPON COAL (either cargo or bunkers) are exempt from payment of all Port charges.

At Sebatik Steamers are berthed along the Company's wharf where there is a minimum depth of 27 to 28 feet at low water Spring Tides.

Charts of Sibak Bay (Sebatik Harbour), Prices and all other information concerning the Port can be had on application to the Agents.

BRADLEY & CO., LTD.
Agents Corrie Harbour Coal
Company, Limited. 1927

LESSONS IN CHINESE.

MR. LI HON FAN, a Chinese graduate earned in literature, has been a teacher in European Schools and Universities for ten years. He has a good command of the Chinese language and is a native speaker of the Chinese dialects. He is also a good knowledge of English and French. Those who intend learning the Chinese language are requested to write to "China Mail" Office or direct to No. 100, Wellington Street, second floor.

BRADLEY & CO., LTD.
Agents Corrie Harbour Coal
Company, Limited. 1927

FRENCH LESSONS

G. MOUSSON.

15, Morrison Hill Road.

INTIMATIONS

NOTICE.

THIS IS TO INFORM the General Public that the Underwriter is the Sole Proprietor of JOSEPH BROTHERS, Hongkong, and all connection with the Firm carried on at Shanghai under the same name has ceased as from the 1st October, 1916.

EDWARD MENASHIE JOSEPH.
Hongkong, March 13, 1917. 1574

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

ALL outgoing and incoming steamers and steam-launches are hereby warned that when passing Hol's Wharves, which are under construction with divers working, that they must not pass within a distance of 200 yards of them and to slow down their speed to 4 knots.

C. W. BECKWITH,
Commander, R.N.,
Harbour Master, &c.
Harbour Department.
Hongkong, March 12, 1917. 1572

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

NOTICE.

ON and after 12th March, 1917 the HOURS for the transaction of business by the Hongkong Savings Bank will be 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Saturdays included.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
N. J. STARR,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, March 5, 1917. 1532

H. K. POLICE (RESERVE).

SERVICE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP

MEETING FOR

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE GOVERNORS' CUP.

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100 yds. Grouping 100 yds. Deliberate
200 yds. Deliberate 500 yds. Deliberate
300 yds. Deliberate 600 yds. Deliberate

Printed Conditions may be obtained on application to Inspector H. A. Lammer, Headquarters Club, H.K.P.R.
Hongkong, Feb. 13, 1917. 1510

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

CORNED BEEF

AND

CORNED PORK.

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FOR

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69

COLUMBIA

RECORDS.

7058 Tesoro Miti Waltz Orchestra

6035 For Valour Military Waltz "Business as Usual March"

6107 A Southern Melody (The Watermelon Field)

6236 Old Lorraine Band

6267 Fiddle Fun Part 1 Violin and Piano

6267 " " 2 " " "

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OVERLAND EDITION.

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TERMS—VERY MODERATE

Consultation free.

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always selectThe
GARRICK
SMOKING
TOBACCO

It has the distinction
of invigorating the
nerves and brain of
the business man.

Does not burn or
irritate the
throat.

THE BAGDAD RAILWAY.

A FRENCH VIEW.

The following review of a French book lately published, which we take from *United Empire*, is of special interest at the present time.

If we wish to study German policy in connection with the Bagdad Railway, we have in the main to turn to French, Italian, and German authorities. Apart from numerous magazine and newspaper articles, one or two descriptive books, and chapters in other works, there is nothing in English dealing specifically with the question of the Bagdad Railway from the diplomatic and political point of view. This is to be regretted, because British policy during the last twenty years has been so intimately connected with communications through the Middle East that it may almost be said to have hinged upon Persia, Bactria and Mesopotamia. That this fact is now more or less recognised is abundantly proved by the attention that is at last being directed towards those Eastern lands which are the cradle of civilisation and will form, it is to be hoped, the grave of German ambitions.

Of recent books dealing with this question none more admirably traverses the tortuous paths of European diplomacy than Dr. Louis Cumins' "La Question du Chemin de Fer de Bagdad." Although written before the outbreak of war, and at a period when the Bagdad question seemed to be settled satisfactorily, at least to France and Russia, this book deals with the intricate diplomatic history of the negotiations and especially with the policy pursued by the German Kaiser in his quest for a Germanic outlet towards the East. The author apparently does not write with the intimate personal knowledge of men and affairs in the Near and Middle East possessed by M. Chéradame, who probably knows more of the inner history of the Bagdad Railway and of German intrigues at Constantinople than any other authority, but he nevertheless sums up correctly on the whole, as we believe, the policy pursued by the four Powers chiefly interested in this question, and possesses, moreover, the faculty of making his narrative a coherent and intensely interesting survey of current diplomatic history. In other words, we see the undercurrents of diplomatic intrigue at work, appreciate the various striking events of the last few years in their true relations with the "overhanging Eastern Question, and realise that the main aim of Germany has been to secure the control of Africa or the North Sea or Belgium but the complete domination of Asia Minor and Mesopotamia, Syria and Persia.

For twenty years the future of Germany has been chiefly involved in the successful completion of this great enterprise—the conception of a great and progressive people—for linking Hamburg and Berlin with the East, and for at least a portion of that period British, French, and Russian interests have been opposed to the consummation of the Kaiser's Dream. From what quarters this opposition came and for what reasons it was manifested cannot here be discussed. The various national interests involved were, as Dr. Cumins shows, by no means similar. In fact the interests of Great Britain, France, and Russia were divergent, and this conflict of interests in reality facilitated the task of the Kaiser in gradually breaking down opposition and in gaining the consent first of Russia, then of France, and finally of Great Britain, to the completion of the Bagdad Railway. A careful perusal of Dr. Cumins' book reveals the methods by which Russia was persuaded to withdraw her opposition, which owing to a variety of causes had been gradually weakening until the meeting of Kaiser and Czar at Potsdam set the seal upon Russian policy by providing for the recognition of Russia's position in Persia in return for the acknowledgment and toleration of German plans in Asia Minor and Mesopotamia. Dr. Cumins gives an admirable and lucid account of these proceedings, and of the masterly part played by King Edward, whom he characterises as a great diplomatist and statesman. In safeguarding our three routes to the East—through the Mediterranean, through Mesopotamia, and through Persia and Afghanistan—that the second of these great world-roads seemed about to fall under the control of the Germans was not the fault of the King-Emperor's policy, but

was due to circumstances which are fully analysed in the book under notice.

It has been remarked that Dr. Cumins' monograph was written before the outbreak of the War. The conclusions at which the author arrived are therefore of peculiar interest at the present time. The interests of France, states Dr. Cumins, were not so adversely affected by the Bagdad adventure as were those of Russia and Great Britain. In fact, he makes it clear that the Bagdad Railway, as such, was not directly opposed to French interests in the Near and Middle East, and shows that it was mainly in deference to the opposition of Russia, her Ally, that France refused her co-operation in the project. That opposition having been overcome in 1910, the position of France, and subsequently that of Great Britain, became untenable, and the final act of the diplomatic drama was initiated a few days before the outbreak of war put an end to the whole controversy.

In an illuminating statement, which is the only passage we shall quote from this interesting book, the writer gives a clear exposition of the French point of view. "Bagdad for the Germans; Syria for France" is his terse summing-up of the situation. "Would not a frank understanding limiting the spheres of action of each be better," he asks, "than a quarrelsome and dangerous rivalry placing French and Germans face to face in Turkey? Germany has a concession in her pocket but has not the money to carry out her enterprise; in exchange for our financial participation an Entente could be arranged on the subject of Morocco. Whilst the Bagdad enterprise counts numerous partisans in France, to those financially interested are joined many of the Colonial party. In their eyes the orientation of Germany towards Western Asia does not present any inconvenience. Is it not to be regretted that Germany has turned its back upon France?" The result of this policy, according to Dr. Cumins, would have been that Russia would dominate Armenia, whilst "England with the policy pursued by the Kaiser in his quest for a Germanic outlet towards the East, the latter country of course falling to France. These views are naturally of purely academic interest at the present time but they indicate the trend of thought with regard to the Middle East prior to the outbreak of the war and serve to explain the attitude of our own Government towards this question. We heartily recommend Dr. Cumins' able book to students of German policy in the Near and Middle East.

THE BANGKOK DOCK COMPANY.

The profit earned by the Bangkok Dock Co., last year, after paying interest on Debentures, and writing off Ticals 40,692.23 as depreciation on the Company's property and plant, amounted to Ticals 224,904.30. To this sum has to be added amounts brought forward from last year, Ticals 42,652.24, which makes a sum of Ticals 267,556.54 available for distribution. An Interim Dividend of 4 per cent was paid on the 1st September, 1916, absorbing Ticals 40,000, leaving a balance of Ticals 227,556.54. The Directors now recommend the payment of a final dividend of 4 per cent, and a bonus of Ticals 4 per share, and after adding reserve funds and paying a bonus to the staff, to carry forward to 1917 accounts a balance of Ticals 45,381.

COUGHING INTO
CONSUMPTION

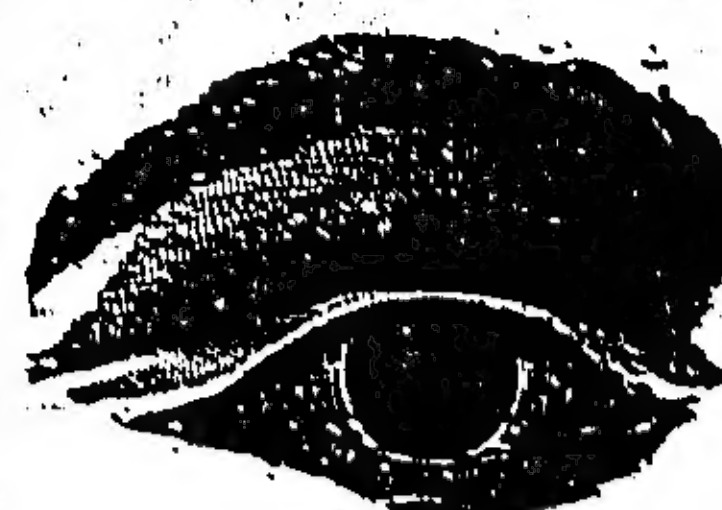
"Only a Cough," but you stop it while it is ONLY a cough.

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The finest preparation made for combating severe coughs. CURES—any cough—that is only a cough. Very palatable. OF ALL CHEMISTS.

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INTIMATIONS



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SCIENTIFIC OPTICIANS
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WARE MERCHANDISE, Wholesale
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Hongkong September 4, 1913.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK Co., Ltd.

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Codes Used: A.I., A.B.C. Fifth Edition Engineering Firm and Second Editions, Western Union, and Watkins
Dock Owners, Ship Builders, Marine and Land Engineers, Boiler Makers,
Iron and Brass Founders, Forge Masters, Electricians,
ACETYLENE CUTTING AND WELDING FOR SHIP AND BOILER REPAIR.
Modern up-to-date plant operated by our own specially trained
workmen under expert European supervision.
All classes of light Steel work manufactured by the above process.
Tanks, Drums, Ventilators, Pipes, &c., &c.

THE DIMENSIONS OF DOCKS AND SHIPS ARE AS FOLLOWS									
NAME OF DOCK OR SHIP	LENGTH OR KEEL BLOCKS	ENTRANCE BREADTH	DEPTH OVER HILL AND OBTAINARY SPRING TIDES	RISE OF TIDE	SPRINGS	NEAPS			
ROWLTON									
No. 1 Dock, Rowlton	707	170	11' 6"	5'	5'	5'			
No. 2 Dock, Rowlton	571	170	11' 6"	5'	5'	5'			
No. 3 Dock, Rowlton	554	170	11' 6"	5'	5'	5'			
Patent Slip, No. 1, Rowlton	342	170	11' 6"	5'	5'	5'			
Patent Slip, No. 2, Rowlton	342	170	11' 6"	5'	5'	5'			
TALKINGTON									
Josephine Dock	46	80	11' 6"	5'	5'	5'			
AMBERSON									
Long Dock	60	80	11' 6"	5'	5'	5'			
Landing Dock	60	80	11' 6"	5'	5'	5'			

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Please Address Enquiries to the Chief Manager.

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ROSS'S BINOCULARS and TELESCOPES.

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ENGLISH SILVERWARE, direct from Manufacturers.

High Class English Jewellery.

KAIPING COAL

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FOR ALL INFORMATION—APPLY TO

DODWELL & CO., LTD., QUEEN'S BUILDINGS, HONGKONG, OR

KAILAN MINING ADMINISTRATION,

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A Double Safeguard.

When buying Worcestershire Sauce,
always look for the signature in White

Lea & Perrins

on the Red label, and see also that the
name LEA & PERRINS is embossed
in raised letters on the glass bottle.

LEA & PERRINS' label and bottle are copied to such
an extent that these precautions are necessary, in order to
make sure that you are being supplied with the original
and genuine Worcestershire and not one of its many
imitations.

OAKLEY'S WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH
BEST FOR CLEANING AND POLISHING CUTLERY—3 1/2, 6 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 1/2
KNIFE BOARDS
PREVENT FRICTION IN CLEANING & INJURY TO THE KNIVES
JOHN OAKLEY & SONS LIMITED
BLACK LEAD MILLS, LONDON

JOHN OAKLEY & SONS, LIMITED, "WELLINGTON MILLS," LONDON.

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A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

Telephone No. 618.

To-day's Advertisements

TO LET.
1. NEW HOUSE in Conduit Road. Ready for occupation. Also 1 GODOWN in Duddell Street. For rent and other particulars apply to—
H. M. H. NEMAZEE,
1 Des Voeux Road.
Hongkong, March 15, 1917. 1577

TO LET.
IMMEDIATE ENTRY, four very desirable SHOPS situated in Lee House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel. Recently reconstructed. For rent and other particulars, apply to—
THE MANAGER,
Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd.,
45, Connaught Road Central.
Hongkong, March 15, 1917. 1578

KONINKLYKE PAKETVAART
MAATSCHAPPY
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
FROM SINGAPORE AND PENANG.

THE Steamship
"JACOB"
having arrived from the above port. Consignees of Cargo by her are notified that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd. whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.
Goods not cleared by 21st March, will be subject to rent.
All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined by Messrs. Goddard and Douglas on the 26th March, 1917 at 10 a.m.
Claims against the steamer must be presented in writing within ten days after arrival of steamer, otherwise they will not be received.
No Fire Insurance will be effected by the Undersigned in any case whatever.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
JAYA-CHINA-JAPAN LYN.
Agents.
Hongkong, March 15, 1917. 1580
(Continued on Page 8.)

THE CALENDAR.

MEMO. FOR TO-MORROW.
11 a.m.—Auction of Rugs, Sheets, Sweater Coats, etc. at Messrs. Hughes and Hough's.

General Memoranda.
SATURDAY, March 17—
St. Patrick's Day.
Dance at "Kingsclere".
10.30 a.m.—Auction of Brassware at Messrs. Hughes and Hough's.
10.30 a.m.—Auction of Table Cloths, Dress Materials, Boots and Shoes, etc. at Messrs. Hughes and Hough's.
4.30 p.m.—Matinee by Bandman Opera Co. in aid of Entertainment Fund for men of H. M. Services.
MONDAY, March 19—
Police Reserve Orchestra at Government House.
5.30 p.m.—Launching of the s.s. "Kwaiyang" at Kowloon Dock.
WEDNESDAY, March 21—
St. Paul's College Athletic Sports on Race Course, Happy Valley.
MONDAY, March 26—
4 p.m.—Annual General Meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
TUESDAY, March 27—
11.30 a.m.—Green Island Cement Co.'s Meeting.
Noon.—Queen's College Athletic Sports on College Ground, Causeway Bay.
4 p.m.—Annual General Meeting of the Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.
TUESDAY 27 & WEDNESDAY March 28—
2.15 p.m.—Auction of Household Furniture at "Brandside", 20, Macdonnell Road.
WEDNESDAY, March 28—
11.30 a.m.—Hongkong Ice Co.'s Meeting.
Noon.—Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.'s Meeting.
THURSDAY, March 29—
Hongkong Stock Exchange Settlement Day.
FRIDAY, March 30—
Noon.—Miss Sagar's Training Class Meeting.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, March 15, 1917.

MESOPOTAMIA.

THE capture of Bagdad and the suggestion that Mesopotamia will never again revert to Turkish domination raises the question whether Mesopotamia is ever likely to prove of much value to Great Britain, except from the political point of view. This question to-day is hardly recognizable from the accounts given of it by the ancient historians. These tell us that the soil of Mesopotamia was extremely fertile, Herodotus declaring that grain commonly returned 200-fold to the sower. PLINY is authority for the statement that wheat was twice cut and that a third growth afforded good feeding for sheep. The country in ancient times was studded with "a vast number of cities" and fruit and nut trees grew wild. It was the site of the "Garden of Eden." We are told that both among Babylonian and Assyrian remains, "there are many sculptures, reliefs and inscriptions to show that hunting of wild beasts in dense jungles was a form of sport constantly indulged in by ancient Kings, in places where to-day exist no jungle, but utterly unwatered desert." Accounts of the military operations in Mesopotamia have made us familiar with the fact that the country in the vicinity of the Tigris suffers badly from floods at certain seasons of the year, but the meteorological records show that the rain is a very uncertain factor. The mean rainfall in the past twenty years has been something less than nine inches a year. Archaeologists tell us that in all probability the summer crops of the Babylonians were irrigated by the spring floods in the rivers, while rain supplied moisture for the winter crops when the rivers were low. It will be remembered that a few years ago the Turkish Government was seriously considering whether the conditions which obtained in ancient times are susceptible of being reproduced by a system of irrigation. The system of canalisation which once watered this country is said to be without parallel in modern times, both on account of its magnitude and on account of the area affected. A few years ago Sir WILLIAM WILLCOCKS, the famous irrigation engineer who has been so largely responsible for the evolution of irrigation in Egypt, was invited to report on the subject of an extensive scheme of irrigation for Mesopotamia, and he produced a scheme of reclamation entailing a cost of £21,000,000. This scheme dealt only with the richest and most accessible parts of the deltas of the Tigris and the Euphrates, some 4,000 square miles in the neighbourhood of Bagdad, and he estimated that the land thus reclaimed would be worth £60,000,000. These figures have been criticised because they are based on the assumption that an unlimited supply of labour is available. Mr. DAVID FRASER, in his book "The Short Cut to India" declares that "there are no people in these regions poor enough to do

coolie labour who are not poor from deliberate choice," and that the necessary amount of labour could not be attracted except by much higher rates of wages than prevailed at the time the estimates were made. Whatever grounds may exist for criticism of the estimates of cost, the opinion of one of the greatest authorities on irrigation in the wide world that it is possible to reproduce by extensive irrigation works a new Chaldaea is not likely to be disregarded if the British occupation becomes permanent. The cost of his scheme is a mere fraction of what it has cost the British Government to occupy Bagdad. If permanent occupation of the captured territory is intended, we may not have to wait for the beginning of the restoration of the Babylonian irrigation system so long as before the war it seemed extremely likely that we should. To make the most of the territory will be a natural desire; the basis of the scheme exists, and the labour will be there in great abundance to make a start with the great transformation of the country.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Three coolies poisoned by coal gas whilst working on a ship in the harbour were taken to the Government Civil Hospital yesterday.
The China Mail Steamship Company, Ltd., informs that the s.s. "China" sailed from San Francisco on March 12th, and is due to arrive in Hongkong on or about April 10th.
The master of a licensed cargo junk reports that on the 12th instant, whilst on a voyage from Hongkong to Canton with a cargo of rice, his boat grounded near Cap Sui Mun and cargo valued at \$5,000 was damaged by salt water.
A Kuala Lumpur contemporary remarks: "In connection with the Hon. Mr. Eu Tong Sen's generous gift to the Empire, it is interesting to learn on the authority of the Army Council that the approximate cost of a 'Tank' is £6,000."
The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—
Morringside Church S. S.
Edinburgh £3 = £68.62
Miss J. Stewart, Dundee £1 = 8.58
Clarke's Circus, a combination of English, French and Italian, artistes will open here on Monday next on the vacant ground near the Railway Station at Kowloon (there being no site available on this side of the harbour). It will be the Troupe's first visit to this Colony and they are styled the most brilliant assembly of artistes ever brought together.

A European lady staying at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, was fined by Lieut. Commander Stainer, R.N., the Harbour Master, £200 for boarding a steamer without a permit. It was stated in evidence that the lady, who went on board to meet a relative, was warned by a customs official not to do so unless she had a permit.

We are informed by Bishop Pozzoni that a Mission will be held at the Catholic Cathedral by the Very Rev. Dr. Antonio Gomes of Macao commencing at 6 p.m. on Thursday, the 29th instant, and ending on Wednesday evening, April 4th. Seafarers are requested to be at their seats before the commencement of each service.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council this afternoon four new Bills were read a first time. They deal (1) with the amendment of the Rating Ordinance, 1901; (2) the protection of certain Public Servants from legal proceedings in respect of certain liabilities; (3) further amendment of the Alien Enemies (winding up) Ordinance, 1914; (4) amendment of the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1897. The eight Bills introduced in the Council on March 8th passed their second and final reading without discussion.

FOOD PRICES IN HONGKONG.

The following answers were returned by the Government at the Legislative Council, this afternoon to questions asked by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock:—
1. Thirteen proclamations regulating the price of foodstuffs have been published, the first on the 18th August, 1914, the last on the 25th August, 1916. The last general revision of prices is contained in proclamation No. 10 of the 12th March, 1915.
2. His Excellency the Governor will refer the matter (of another meeting) to the Committee.
3. The Government is informed that, since the 25th July, 1914, the retail prices in the Colony of the foodstuffs named have been increased by some 10 to 12%. In certain cases the increase has been larger, in others less. The increase would have been considerably greater, had it not been for the rise in exchange.
It must be remembered that various circumstances, as for instance a rise in freight rates, which were not foreseen at the commencement of the war, have combined to raise prices. The recent prohibition of the export to the Colony of foodstuffs from the United Kingdom will no doubt further affect the price of foodstuffs imported from countries other than China.
The question of the limitation of prices will be referred to the Committee.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Hongkong Catholics and friends of the Rev. Father Gabardil will hear with deep sympathy of the death of his mother which occurred on the 31st December at her native town in Italy.
Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Carmichael have left Hongkong for Japan where they propose to stay a month and then proceed to California, remaining there until travel in the Atlantic is free from peril and they are able to return to England. Mrs. Carmichael during her residence in the Colony has actively interested herself in war work, and rendered valuable assistance in connection with the Ministerial Children's League. In these and other directions she will be much missed.
For the Special Matinee on Saturday afternoon next on behalf of the Entertainment Fund for Service men, which is being organised by the Revs. Cooper Hunt and T. Robinson, the Bandman Opera Company are preparing a very bright and attractive programme, and we are informed that the entertainment as a whole will be the best yet put on in the Colony for a long time. The members of the company themselves are undertaking all expenses. Calls for different war funds are urgent and many, but no one will deny that this is a most deserving fund and worthy of all support asked for. The money—every cent of it—will be well-spent, but it will be spent without splash or waste, and every dollar will give its full value in interest and variety to the lives of the men of His Majesty's Forces among us.

CHURCH NOTES.

The Bishop of Victoria, accompanied by the Rev. W. T. Featherstone, left the Colony this morning by the steamship "Hongkong" for Haiphong en route to Pakhoi, Liemehow, Cheunglok, Moli, Lingshan and Nanning where confirmations are to be held. They propose to return to the Colony via Wuchow and the West River.
The Bishop expects to return to the Colony about the 3rd April. The course of sermons which he was giving on Sunday evenings at the Cathedral will be continued on Sunday next by the Rev. C. L. Cooper, Hunt, Chaplain to the Forces.
The Lent lectures to Ladies on Friday mornings at 10.45 in the Chapel attached to the Bishop's house, St. Paul's College, will be continued during Lent. Tomorrow the lecture will be given by the Rev. N. C. Pope, Chaplain of St. Andrew's, Kowloon.

BEST MEDICINE MADE.

A better medicine can not be made than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It relieves the lungs, opens the secretory and expiratory passages, restores the system to a healthy condition. Besides, it contains no opiates, and is perfectly safe to take. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

THE BANKRUPTCY COURT.

GAMBLING IN LEAD AND TIN.

Before His Honour, Sir William Rees Davies, the Chief Justice, the public examination in bankruptcy of Leung Shiu Tong, sole partner in the On Hing firm, was held this morning. Questioned by Mr. Carmichael, the Official Receiver, petitioner said he was the only partner in the On Hing firm.
Mr. Carmichael: You said in your previous examination that there was a claim for \$2,000 which was money you had borrowed. Was that sum shown in your books?—No.
Was it shown in the creditor's books?—No.
Do you know that I have rejected that claim?—No.
Did you show your drawings in your books?—No.
You did not show them at all?—No; whenever money was made I spent it.
Altogether what are your total liabilities?—\$100,000.
I put it to you that they are over \$160,000?—Yes.
And your assets are \$24,000?—Yes.
What was your failure due to?—It was consequence of the drop in the price of tin and lead.
You were gambling in tin and lead stocks?—Yes.
And you lost about \$100,000 in gambling?—Yes.
Before you lost money I suppose you made some?—Yes, I made some money in speculating in lead and tin.
When did you start?—At the end of last year.
How long did it take you to lose this \$100,000?—About three or four months. Other people failed, and I failed in consequence of them not being able to take delivery from me, so that I could not take delivery from others.
Who are these firms?
Four names were given.
In reply to His Lordship, the Official Receiver explained that a lot of Chinese had been gambling in "futures" in tin and lead. The market dropped and most of them were caught.
Asked why papers were torn out of his cash book, petitioner said his accountant had made some mistakes and hid them from the leaves out.

Mr. Carmichael: Do you smoke opium?—I used to smoke about \$1.80 worth a day.
And you were smoking opium when the receiving order was made? You did not attend the meeting of your creditors?—No.
You absconded and you gave me a reason for absconding which I accepted. Where did you get money to live on then?—I lived with a friend.
Yes! And I suppose you smoked your friend's opium? Where do you get the money to smoke opium now?—I do not smoke now, because I have no money to buy opium.
Mr. Carmichael to his Lordship: That is not true. Your Lordship has only to look at the man to see that he is a confirmed opium smoker.
The examination then closed.

OTHER CASES.

Other applications were disposed of as follows:—
Re Yeung Yat Chi—Liabilities \$75,000; assets \$16,000. A receiving order was granted.
Re the Hing Kee Firm—Receision granted.
Re the Shing Tak Ching Bank—It was stated that arrangements for a composition had been made but the money was not yet forthcoming. A further adjournment was granted.
Re the Kwong Hing Firm—The liabilities were stated to be \$5,000 and the assets as likely to produce \$4,000 for division amongst the creditors. Mr. D'Almada, who appeared for the petitioning creditors, said the firm was solvent if the book debts were collected. A receiving order was granted.
Re Lau Pak Fan—Adjudication granted.
Re the Luen Kee Firm—The account of this firm was appointed Trustee subject to suitable security being provided.

TROUBLE AVERTED.

THAT little cold and sore throat of yours must be checked at once or it may develop into something worse. Take a few doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and your troubles will vanish. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

THE MAGISTRACY.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF OPIUM.

Whilst walking in Wing Lok Street last night two Chinese women were arrested on suspicion and taken to the Police Station. Upon being searched before Inspector Brazil, 37½ tins of prepared opium, other than Government opium, was found tied around each woman's waist.
The women were brought before Mr. Wood this morning, but on the application of Mr. G. R. Haywood, who appeared as solicitor for the defendants, the case was remanded until next Monday.

AN OPIUM DIVAN.

A Chinese charged with keeping an opium divan and preparing opium was brought before Mr. Wood this morning. The defendant had been previously convicted for a similar offence and was fined \$100 on each charge.

ATTEMPT TO PASS A FORGED CHEQUE.

Three Chinese employers of the General Post Office were charged before Mr. Wood this morning with being implicated in an attempt to pass on the Russo-Asiatic Bank a cheque bearing a false chop.
The first defendant, who is a sorter in the General Post Office, was charged with stealing the cheque.

The second defendant, a messenger in the Radio-Telegraph Department of the General Post Office, was charged with presenting a cheque, bearing a false chop to the Russo-Asiatic Bank.
The third defendant, also a sorter in the General Post Office, was charged with giving the forged cheque to the second defendant to take to the Bank.
Inspector Brazil stated that the cheque, which was issued by the International Savings Bank for the sum of \$135, came through the post and was presented at the Russo-Asiatic Bank by the second defendant. The Bank however, detected the chop to be a forgery and when detained, the messenger stated that he received the cheque from the third defendant. On this statement the third defendant was also taken into custody and he, in turn, gave information that led to the arrest of the first defendant.
The defendants were remanded in Police custody until Tuesday morning.

MANLAUGHTER CASE HEARD.

The case in which a contractor and his foreman are charged with manslaughter as the result of the collapse of a brick wall at the ruins of No. 87 Shanghai Street, Yaumatei, several days ago, was heard before Mr. J. R. Wood this afternoon.
The circumstances were that five men and one woman, engaged in demolishing the wall, were injured in the accident and taken to the Government Civil Hospital where one of the men died of his injuries.

Inspector Gerard, of Yaumatei, appeared as prosecutor and the defendants were represented by Mr. P. X. D'Almada.

Mr. D'Almada mentioned that the woman injured in the accident has also died, and he stated that she was a relative of the second defendant.

His Worship, however, said the point would not be of much help to the defence.
Dr. Macfarlane, Medical Officer in charge of the Mortuary, Hongkong, stated that the man injured in the accident had died of a fractured skull as the result of a fall from a height.
Two Chinese deposed that they identified the deceased as their younger brother.
Mr. J. Eldridge, Overseer of the Public Works Department, gave evidence as to the shoring on the premises. He stated that the proper way to demolish a wall was to erect a scaffold for the men engaged in the demolition to stand on. This, he said, was not done in the case before the Court.

Further evidence was given by Mr. A. E. Wright, Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department, who testified that the defendants had failed to notify him that the ruined building was being demolished, and stated that had they complied with this ordinance an officer of the Public Works Department would have been sent to inspect the premises.
The case was then adjourned until next Monday. His Worship reducing the first defendant's bail to \$200 and fixing the second defendant's bail at \$1,000 as before.

A FAMILY NECESSITY.

EVERY family should be provided with Chamberlain's Pain Balm at all times. Sprains may be cured in much less time when promptly treated. Large back, lame shoulders, pains in the side and chest and rheumatic pains are some of the diseases for which it is especially valuable. Try this balm and become acquainted with its qualities and you will never wish to be without it. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

CHINA AND GERMANY.

MANDATES ISSUED.

(Wah Tse Yat Po's Service.)

PEKING, March 14.

A Mandate announcing the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany has been issued to-day. It recites China's protest against the German submarine policy, and says that, after a month's delay, Germany has replied that she is unable to cancel that policy. As this policy menaces the lives and property of Chinese subjects, China is compelled to sever diplomatic relations with Germany. The Mandate is signed by all the members of the Cabinet.

A further Mandate directs the various Departments to attend to the business which the severance of relations entails, and at the same time to accord protection to German subjects.

PASSPORTS FOR GERMAN MINISTER.

The German Minister in Peking and the Consuls have received their passports and are expected to leave China to-morrow.

THE CHINESE MINISTER AND STUDENTS IN BERLIN.

The Chinese Minister in Berlin has been instructed to leave with his staff, and also to arrange for the safe return of the Chinese students in Germany.

SEIZURE OF GERMAN SHIPS AT SHANGHAI.

SHANGHAI, March 14.

The Naval Authorities, under instructions from Peking, have seized the German ships *Melita*, *Meidok*, *Sikiang*, *Albany*, *Deila*, *Ribbners* and *Fortuna* in Shanghai harbour. All on board have landed.
The seizure took place without trouble.

THE COLONY'S WAR GIFT.

At the meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council this afternoon, H. E. The Governor recommended that the Council vote a sum of Two million Dollars (\$2,000,000) in aid of Miscellaneous Services, Contribution to Imperial Government for War Purposes.
The Hon. Colonial Secretary, who presided at the meeting of the committee, remarked that this was the largest attendance they had ever had at a Finance Committee Meeting. The Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson agreed.
The Committee agreed to the recommendation.

THE CAPTAIN FRYATT MEMORIAL.

CONTRIBUTION FROM ITALY.

The Special Committee, which is administering the Captain Fryatt Memorial Fund have been gratified to receive the following letter from Home, accompanied by Two Hundred Guineas to the Memorial:—
"It is with pleasure that we associate ourselves, not only as Shipbuilders but also as Proprietors of the 'Societa Nazionale Italiana Di Navigazione' to the erection of a Memorial in honour of the brave martyr 'Captain Charles Fryatt' who was a victim of the ferocious enemy for having gallantly done what he considered to be his duty in trying to save the steamer under his command. A deed which ought to have had the admiration even of the barbarous enemy and which will always remain a standard of the gallantry of the Mercantile Naval Officers and men who, without seeking glory, are doing daily their duty in the dangerous task entrusted to them.
Therefore we have the pleasure to enclose two hundred guineas of which one hundred is on behalf of the Societa Nazionale Italiana Gio. Ansaldo and C., and one hundred on behalf of the Societa Nazionale Di Navigazione."
A letter of thanks has been returned for this generous contribution. The Memorial, which has been organised by the Imperial Merchant Service Guild, Liverpool, will take the form of a permanent Memorial, and a Fund for the purposes of alleviation of cases of suffering and distress, primarily those due to the war, arising amongst the members of the profession to which Captain Fryatt belonged, or their dependants. If so desired contributions may be earmarked for one object or the other.
Another recent contribution through the medium of the Liverpool Underwriters Association is that of a thousand francs from the Comité Des Assurances Maritimes De Paris. This has been supplemented by an additional contribution of 2100 from the Liverpool Underwriters Association.

TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

POLITICAL CRISIS IN AUSTRIA.

BRISBANE, March 13.

A crisis in the Vienna Cabinet is impending.

It is stated that M. Martini will be succeeded by Count Czernin, who will in turn be succeeded by Count Tisza.

Count Julius Andrássy will succeed Count Tisza and will form a Hungarian Coalition Cabinet.

GERMAN SEAPLANES BOMB RUSSIAN DESTROYERS.

LONDON, March 13.

A German official dispatch reports that German seaplanes, on March 12, bombed two Russian destroyers which approached Constantinople and forced them to retire. Two hits were clearly observed on one destroyer, fore and aft.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

UNDERTAKING BY LABOUR UNIONS.

WASHINGTON, March 14.

The Federated Railway Unions which have been threatening a long strike for an eight-hour day have now written to President Wilson saying that if the nation is involved in war while the negotiations with employers continue, they will cooperate with the Government to the fullest extent.

THE EMPIRE'S RESOURCES.

LORD MILLER ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

LONDON, March 14.

Lord Miller presiding at a luncheon given by British Empire producers in honour of the Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Morris, Prime Minister of Newfoundland, said the development of the Empire's resources belonged to today's new constructive era, the guiding principle of which was to regard the Empire as an economic whole. The Empire was capable of dealing with questions affecting every part. The time was coming when the direction of Imperial affairs would be in the hands of a Government representative of and responsible to all the Dominions. The present Cabinet was morally responsible to the Empire for the conduct of the war; hence they were anxious to have the counsel of the Dominions in the conference.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

NEARING BAPAUME.

ENEMY ABANDONS IMPORTANT DEFENCES.

LONDON, March 13.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig says that owing to the bombardment the enemy abandoned the main defences along the forward crest of the ridge to the west of Bapaume on a 8½ mile front. We drove back the rearguards in this area for a depth of a mile and occupied Grevillers and Loupart Wood. We also progressed to the east and north-east of Gommecourt on a frontage of a mile.

A midday party reached our trenches to the south-west of Neuve Chapelle, and a few British are missing.

Hostile raids elsewhere were repulsed.

IMPORTANT NEWS ANTICIPATED.

LONDON, March 14.

Our guns and the steady pressure of our troops have compelled the Germans in France to resume their backward movement.

The enemy has been pushed back under cover of the very hazy weather of the last twenty-four hours along a front between 4,000 and 5,000 yards in extent, and to a depth which Reuters' correspondent at Headquarters says is so far impossible to estimate.

Our troops advanced right through a series of strong positions which the enemy had prepared in Loupart Wood and we seized the village of Grevillers. Great activity prevails where the Germans have been forced back.

There should be important news available by to-morrow," concludes the despatch.

FRENCH ACTIVITY IN CHAMPAGNE.

LONDON, March 14.

A French communiqué reports: In the Champagne there was reciprocal artillery activity in the sectors of Maison-de-Champagne and Main-de-Massiges.

The Germans with bombs unsuccessfully attacked Hill 187.

On the left of the Meuse there was reciprocal artillery activity.

We apparently were notably effective in the region of Avocourt and Hill 304, and on the right bank north-west of Bezonvaux.

MESOPOTAMIA.

WARM WELCOME TO BRITISH AT BAGDAD.

LONDON, March 13.

An official message from Mesopotamia says: We maintained close touch with the enemy south of Bagdad on the evening of March 10. At night the enemy evacuated an entire trench line, advancing in close contact.

A general advance on both banks of the Tigris followed and we occupied the railway station at dawn and then the city. The enemy advanced in pursuit and after a slight resistance occupied Kadhaimin, taking 100 prisoners.

The gumbouts then took up the pursuit.

Since February 23 the Turks have been destroying and removing everything of value from Bagdad, but our forces nevertheless is considerable.

We made prisoners of 800 on the left bank of the Tigris on March 10.

The inhabitants of Bagdad warmly welcomed us.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, March 13.

A German official message, transmitted by wireless, claims that 250 prisoners have been taken at Natanjowa.

ALLIES' JUSTIFICATION FOR SCRUTINY OF MAILS.

"A few lines of a letter conveyed to the enemy may be as useful, or even more useful, to his war-like operations than a cargo of arms and ammunition."

This statement is made in a Memorandum, addressed by the French and British Governments to the United States Government, justifying the examination of parcels and letter mails, which was issued yesterday in the form of a White Paper.

"Experience has, in fact, demonstrated the truth of this observation," the memorandum continues. "Hostile acts which have been planned through the examination of parcels and letter mails, which was issued yesterday in the form of a White Paper."

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CHAPLAIN'S HAUL OF PRISONERS.

450 GERMAN PRISONERS TO SURRENDER.

LONDON, March 14.

The exploit of a Roman Catholic chaplain, who, with eighteen enthusiastic Irishmen, brought in 450 "very thankful, if somewhat dejected" Germans, was referred to by Sir Philip Sassoon in a recent speech at Folkestone.

A reliable correspondent states that the hero of the incident, home on furlough, has just been welcomed by the parishioners in a banquet in Louth.

It is stated that a party of the Dublin Fusiliers, accompanied by the padre, when returning from a reconnoitering expedition, were assailed by rifle fire from a wood where it was known the enemy were entrenched.

The chaplain advanced to the front, and, informed them that one of their number could return to the wood and give the remaining Germans the assurance that their lives would be spared if they surrendered.

The German who had been entrusted to give the message to his compatriots promptly left, but as he failed to return after a reasonable interval the "Dubs" tried the effect of another volley. Then two more Germans came out, and a repetition of the fire brought out another trio.

Encouraged by these repeated evidence of the spirit of surrender, the chaplain decided to enter the wood and see the officer in charge of the enemy. He did so, and the result of his enterprise was that 450 Germans offered to surrender.

They emerged from the thicket, but when confronted with only 18 Fusiliers—and not an entire battalion, as they probably surmised—a number of them sought to return to the wood, with the obvious intention of renewing the combat. The "Dubs," however, sent a bullet into the rear of each of the would-be soldiers and soon dispelled all notions of retaliation.

It is stated that one of the German officers approached the chaplain and asked that he might be spared the horrors of torture. At the same time he sketched a map of the battle of the Somme, which he held in his extended hand. The report, apt though it was—"We are British soldiers, sir, and not thieves"—was capped by a valiant Fusilier standing near, who, doubtless charged to see so much money unpurchased by lock and key, inquired: "Give them to me, my son, and I'll take care of you and yer receipts."

It is also stated that a second German officer handed to the chaplain an Iron Cross of the 2nd Class.

"KEEP YOUR THRONE."

THE KAISER AND "TNO."

Mr. Ward Price in a message from Salonika last month says that according to information received by the Greek Provisional Government the Kaiser has sent a message to King Constantine to the effect that he cannot aid him in Macedonia, adding that he had asked him to keep your throne. The correspondent sees in this the dirge of the German schemes, "undoubtedly real and active a few weeks ago, to clear the Balkans, and also an indication that after the war, German intrigue will be directed towards Greece. He says, Germany had won complete sway in the Balkans, she would have made Salonika into a Mediterranean Kiel. The danger is that she may try after the war to gain by intrigue what she failed to win by arms. The Greek Provisional Government, he adds, realises the situation, and should be at a free hand to deal with King Constantine after the war."

SIMILES FROM AMERICA.

Mr. Frank J. Wildstach, a New York theatrical man, was one day reading a political article. Being interested he bought several papers, all of which agreed in informing him that "the news had spread like wildfire."

He sought out a friend, "Is there no other word," he pointed out, "in which news is spread?" The friend had never heard of any, so Mr. Wildstach sought a publisher.

"I want a dictionary of similes," he demanded. He was told that none existed. Whereupon he decided that there should be one. That was in 1894, and now, 1916, there is, with 15,000 similes.

A few of the most striking are reproduced in the "New York World." Here they are:

Sly as a submarine.—Anon.
As sprightly as a jumping-jack in the hands of a man with "Venus" dance.—Anon.
Sleaz as the hot rolls dug out of Pompeii.—Anon.
Success is like sunshine—it brings out the rattlesnakes.—Paul Morton.
Tuneless as a bag of wool.—George Elliot.

Unemotional as a frozen flounder.—George Broadhurst.
Wrinkled like a raisin.—Anon.
Rogey as a victorious candidate.—George Meredith.
Robbery as like rain: they fall on the just and the unjust.—John Billings.
Soundless like dirt, will rub out when dry.—Sir T. Bernard.
Silent as the growth of flowers.—Aphra Behn.
Single as the sun.—Swinburne.

As sure as much chance as a man with a wooden leg in a forest fire.—George Broadhurst.
Bob up like the hammers of a piano.—Dickens.
Busy as a cross-eyed boy at a three-ring circus.—Bee Beech.
Calm as the society columns of a newspaper.—Anon.
Coughed like a cow who finds feathers mixed with hay.—Balzac.
Cowardly as a snail.—Anon.
Crotchety as a man with the colic.—Samuel Hopkins Adams.
Difficult as to forgive the virtues of our enemies.—Anon.

RUSSIA'S NEW PORT.

RAILWAY LINKS PETROGRAD WITH ARCTIC.

AN ICE-FREE OUTLET.

The Murman Railway is now officially announced from Russia to be open for traffic. This is an event of great importance for the future conduct of the war, for by this railway Russia has obtained an outlet to an ice-free port, through which she can obtain material from the west through the winter.

The railway is called after the Murman coast of the Kola Peninsula, which shuts in the White Sea on the north, and is washed by the Arctic Ocean. It may seem strange that a port on the Arctic Ocean, in these parts still powerful enough to prevent ice from accumulating along the shore. This, of course, applies only to the open coast, for at Kola, which lies deeper than the Catherine Bay, the water frequently freezes. Now, however, the port is open just at the month of the day, it is as free from ice as any Norwegian port of the same latitude (says the Manchester Guardian).

It was, therefore, Nov. Alexandrovsk which was chosen as the terminus for the Murman railway, though the actual port, with its quays, warehouses, docks, etc., will be situated on the side of the bay, at Bomnash, where there is more available space for building.

WORK FOR PRISONERS OF WAR.
It is worth noting that the idea of a railway to terminate at Nov. Alexandrovsk was first conceived by the late Count Witte as far back as the middle of the nineteenth century, with the object of constructing an ice-free naval fortress. The idea, however, was ultimately abandoned in favour of a fortress at Liban, and was only revived at the end of 1914, when the necessity of an alternative to the Archangel route for war purposes became obvious. Since then thousands of workmen from Russia and abroad had been engaged in the arduous task of constructing a port and a railway in an inhospitable, roadless, and scantily-inhabited country, with a rough climate, overgrown sometimes marshy, sometimes mountainous, which rendered it impossible to construct a railway by the ordinary methods of construction. This labour has been crowned with success, the whole line, about 800 miles in length, being now available for the transport of war material from Nov. Alexandrovsk to Petrograd.

The line may be divided into five parts. The first, from Petrograd to Zvanka, is a section of an old line from the capital to Volodga, which is itself connected with Archangel. The second section, from Zvanka to Petrograd, on the Onega Lake, was constructed by a private company at the beginning of 1915. The third section, from Petrograd to Iroka, in the south-western corner of the White Sea, and on to Kern, on the western coast of the same sea—one of the most beautiful spots in that country—was constructed in the spring and the summer of the present year.

LAST AND MOST DIFFICULT.
The fifth section, across the Kola Peninsula, from Kandalaksha, at the north-western corner of the White Sea, to Nov. Alexandrovsk, was ready at the end of last year, permitting a motor-sledge connection with the Finnish waterways. The fourth section, between Kandalaksha and Kern, was the last to be completed. This section was the most difficult of all owing to the abundance of lakes and the marshy ground, and its quick construction is due to the fact that the Russian Government had wisely renounced the idea of excavating the limits of the requirements for the present, and deferred a more solid construction till better days come.

The line will now make it possible to transport goods from the Murman coast to Petrograd in two days all the year round. It is due to M. Troppoff, the present Premier, to whom the last year was his energy and iron will, while he was Minister of Railways, which have brought about such a rapid completion of the important undertaking. The display of these qualities no doubt contributed to the fact that he was chosen to succeed to M. Sturmer in the Premier'ship.

"A RUBBER FORECAST."
Since the sad death of Mr. C. A. Lampard the voice of the rubber prophet has not been heard, says the Madras Mail, but now another seer, who is described as a well-known market authority, has been forwarded. His estimates of the world's production and consumption of rubber during the next four years in tons are as follows:

Year.	Production.	Consumption.
1917	235,000	230,000
1918	265,000	260,000
1919	295,000	290,000
1920	314,000	312,000

No allowance has been made in these estimates for the German and Austrian post-war demand, which is not expected to be less than 20,000 tons per annum. Apart from this it will be seen that during the four years in question it is thought that supply and demand will remain very nearly balanced.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.
HONGKONG AND CHINA DISTRICT.
BATHING DIVISION.

A Sergeant and 16 men will parade with the Hongkong Volunteer Reserves on Sunday, the 18th inst. Fall in on the Cricket Ground at 8.15 a.m.

Dress—Helmets, shorts, puttees, knickerbockers (fitted), waterboots (fitted). Rations should be carried in knickerbockers. Two stretchers to be provided.

(Ed.) E. HARRIS.
Office in Charge of District.

SCOTTISH SPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

January 31.

ASSOCIATION LEAGUE.

For the second week in succession Celtic dropped a point, and as both Greenock Morton and Rangers were successful, it looks as if there was a possibility of a fight for the Championship. The leaders on the table stand thus:—

Celtic, 24 matches played, and 40 points.

Greenock Morton, 23 matches, and 40 points.

Rangers, 24 matches, and 38 points.

The other clubs are out of the running. The three Northern combinations are making a bad season of it, and are at the bottom of the table. Aberdeen have 16 points. Dundee, 15, and Raith Rovers 14.

Several clubs found it difficult to raise an eleven for their engagements, war work claiming many noted players; and the feature of the week was the success of Queen's Park and Hearts, though both suffer greatly from this cause. Indeed, Queen's Park accomplished a very smart feat in winning at Falkirk; they started with nine players, and only got their full eleven after the interval. Quite as surprising was Hearts' success at Dundee. The home job had by far the larger share of the first half, but in the second half Hearts tried their fifteenth centre forward, surely a record for any club in any season, and the new-comer made good by putting on a couple of goals. Motherwell also won under difficulties; one of their forwards had to retire after half in home play. Third Lanark forwards were ever so much better than the Celtic five. Rangers gave a poor display. Kilmarnock's complete triumph was in large measure due to the Aberdonians having to put in a long railway journey. Results:—

Elthamians, 3; Dumbarton, 1.
Dundee, 2; Hearts, 3.
Third Lanark, 0; Celtic, 0.
Rangers, 2; Hamilton Academicals, 1.
Morton, 2; Airdrie, 1.
Raith Rovers, 1; St. Mirren, 1.
Falkirk, 1; Queen's Park, 2.
Clyde, 2; Partick Thistle, 1.
Motherwell, 2; Ayr United, 1.
Kilmarnock, 7; Aberdeen, 0.

RUGBY.

Whitby weather is playing havoc with the few engagements left in Rugby, and School Championship games are postponed. Fettes, in spite of the absence of leading players, defeated Edinburgh University by 8 points to 0. Grange scored 21 to 3 against Kirkcaldy High School. And Royal High School unkindly run up 53 points against St. Wulst's 0.

THE SINAI PENINSULA.

Mr. H. Wilkins, formerly of the United Engineers and now of the City of London Rough Riders, serving with the Salonika Army, writes to a friend in Bangkok:—

"We have had a strenuous year and our facilities for either writing or posting have been very meagre, as we have been hurried away over 100 miles inside the Sinai peninsula, near the Turkish border, since May last. Gladly since the Gallipoli and Sennar campaigns we have been kept hard at it, barring six glorious weeks in barracks at Cairo with brigade polo tournaments and Shepherds' grill. We were there to rest and pick up horses and were pushed off to Sinai, beginning of March, and there we have spent the summer, constantly on the move from Red Sea to the Mediterranean, right through every bit of the waste which Moses justly termed the wilderness. Our job was to work through and gradually clear the place of enemy troops (they held it last year) and we were consequently always running into bits of trouble of sorts."

As you know, the Turks attacked in force up north during July and August and being on the spot we had the time of our lives, working as a mobile column with the Australian cavalry and Camel corps, well away on the flank and rear of the Turks. We took and held for nearly two months two important Turkish bases and were then relieved and went off on another expedition, to the Magdara mountains, entailing a march of 500 miles over heavy drift sand. Having straddled the old Turks there we then got orders to get down to our base for a long promised rest. This occupied over a week's march and we eventually got into a most comfortable camp near the shores of Lake Timsah with real tents and all our base kits, which we hadn't seen for six months. Five days after our return we got orders to prepare for departure overseas. Frankie intending for way in clothing followed, then off to Alexandria, a week or so dodging the wily submarine. Now here we were, perched up among the mountains of the Balkans, wondering if we shall ever feel warm or dry again. "We are sitting on a hillside, surrounded by snow clad mountains, with a blustering east wind sending the rain down in torrents for days on end."

Reports from Rumania mention that the damage of the Netherlands Oil Companies in Rumania is estimated at £1,250,000, which is not covered by insurance.

The Lieutenant was instructing the squad in visual training. "Tell me, Number One," he said, "how many men are there in that trench digging party over there in that trench?" "Thirty men and one officer," was the prompt reply.

"Quite right," observed the Lieutenant, after a pause. "But how do you know one is an officer at this distance?" "Oh, he's the only one not working."

HARPER'S BALSAMIC COUGH LINCTUS.

The mild and soothing influence which this preparation has classes it among the most valuable of its kind, in cases of Cough, Asthma, Bronchitis, Shortness of Breathing, or Difficulty of Expectoration; and while it removes the accumulation of phlegm, from its Tonic and Astringent virtues it prevents its formation, and allays irritation of the membranes of the throat and chest, rendering those delicate parts less susceptible of future irritation and disease.

DOSE.—From ten drops to one tea-spoonful according to age and circumstances, to be taken three or four times a day, or when the Cough is troublesome.

PRICE \$1.00 AND \$1.50 PER BOTTLE.

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"MALTHOID."

Agents: BRADLEY & Co., Ltd.
HONGKONG.

ON THE SETTLEMENT OF LABOUR TROUBLES.

For some considerable time, down to about ten or a dozen years ago, says *Engineering*, strikes were diminishing. Employers were coming more and more to understand Trade Unionism and to respect union leaders. The members of the unions were becoming more and more loyal to their leaders. Conciliation Boards—voluntary Boards, be it observed—were established in most of the big industries and in some small ones. These were getting a stronger and stronger voice in the control of industrial conditions. Agreements made between the employers and the trade union representatives were generally honoured, and there was a pronounced movement towards industrial peace. Through the agency of voluntary conciliation strikes were steadily decreasing. But about 10 or 12 years ago progress was arrested and retrogression set in. Strikes began to increase, and have gone on increasing, ignoring, of course, the abnormal war period. More time was lost by strikes and lock-outs in the last 10 years before the war than in the previous 30 years. The deplorable state of affairs has synchronised with the increasing activities of the Government in the direction of settling disputes. There need be no mystery about this. The trouble is no more than the natural and inevitable corollary of the policy of State intervention. This intervention takes responsibility away from the parties primarily interested in labour disputes and encourages the small minority of hotheads and mischief-makers on both sides. If the Government adds *Engineering*, made it a fixed policy to keep out of labour disputes, the most special and extreme cases, the negotiators on both sides would be left with the full and final responsibility of settling their differences and making and observing agreements. In such circumstances the extremists could not hope to gain anything by extravagant demands or withholding reasonable concessions, as the case might be. Credit or blame for the good or ill that came of disputes or their settlement would invariably go to the right parties, and in that knowledge there would be a strong and determining disposition on both sides to compose differences, arrive at practical agreements, and honour bargains. But since it has come to be known that the State or some State Department is quite prepared and will step in between the disputing parties and arbitrate, or even to pass a special Act of Parliament to settle the trouble, see what happens. The extremists on both sides simply gamble on the Government's award giving them something more than they can secure by voluntary negotiation.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

policy school.
Class IX (Chief Inspector Lees).—Wednesday, March 21st, and Monday, March 26th.
Class X (Inspector Gerrard).—Monday, March 19th, and Thursday, March 29th.
Class XI (Inspector Gordon).—Friday, March 23rd, and Friday, March 30th.
The O.C. No. 2 Company and Commanders of Nos. 1 and 2 Sections will send list of men wanted to attend these classes to Staff Inspector Fothergill. Members will attend in uniform of Headquarters' Club at 5.30 p.m. and will supply their own writing material.
(Sgd.) F. C. JENKIN.
D.S.F. (R.).

A LIFE SAVER.

It is safe to say that Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has saved the lives of more people and relieved more suffering than any other remedy in existence. It is known all over the civilized world for its speedy cures of colic in the stomach, diarrhoea and all intestinal pains. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

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WILL dispatch VESSELS to the Undermentioned PORTS on or about the DATES named:—

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LONDON & BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, PORT SAID & MARSEILLES			

Wireless on all steamers. Return tickets at a fare and a-half available to Europe for two years, or Intermediate Ports for six months. Round-the-world and through tickets to New York, at Special Rates.

For PASSAGE RATES, HAND-BOOKS, FREIGHTS, DATES OF SAILING etc. apply to P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, E. V. D. PARR, Superintendent.

O. S. K.

OSAKA SHOSHEN KAISHA. REGULAR SERVICES, PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG. (SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

North American Line. For Victoria, Seattle and Tacoma, via SHANGHAI, MANILA, NAGASAKI, MOJI, KORE AND YOKOHAMA.

"MEXICO MARU" Saturday, 31st Mar., at 3 p.m.

FORMOSA LINE. For Tamsui, Keelung, Asping and Takao, via Swatow and Amoy.

"AMAKUSA MARU" Sunday, 18th Mar., at Noon.

These Formosa Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 78 will be fixed.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE.—Every three months, steamers proceed to Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Buenos Aires, via Singapore, Mauritius, Durban and Cape Town.

AUSTRALIAN LINE.—Monthly service between Japan and Adelaide, calling at Auckland, N.Z., Sydney and Melbourne.

BOMBAY LINE.—Fortnightly service for Bombay calling at Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang and Colombo. At present this line's steamers take cargo only.

JAVA LINE.—Monthly service for Java ports calling at Manila, Sandakan and Macassar. Booking for passengers and cargo to these ports.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS, APPLY AT THE OFFICE.

H. YAMAUCHI, Manager, No. 1, Queen's Building.

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C. N. C. CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
SWATOW & RANGKOR	CHANGHUTOW	Mar. 17, at 9 a.m.
SHANGHAI	ANNU	Mar. 18, Daylight
SWATOW & SINGAPORE	LANGCHOW	Mar. 18, at 9 a.m.
SHANGHAI	SUNNING	Mar. 20, at 4 p.m.
MANILA, CEBU & ILOILO	TEAN	Mar. 21, at Noon
TIENSIN	KUICROW	Mar. 22, at 4 p.m.
SHANGHAI	SHANTUNG	Mar. 22, at 4 p.m.
SHANGHAI	YINGCHOW	Mar. 23, Daylight

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S.S. 'Anhui', 'Cheonan', 'Yingchow', 'Shantung', 'Sinkiang' and 'Sunning', with excellent accommodation, Electric Light and Fans in Saloon and State-rooms, maintain a regular schedule service between Canton, Hongkong and Shanghai, leaving Hongkong for Shanghai direct every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, taking cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports. Passengers are landed in Shanghai, avoiding the inconvenience of transshipment at Wootung.

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PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG (SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
Kobe & Moji	SUNSHINE	FRIDAY, Mar. 16, Daylight
TIENSIN	CHIPSING	FRIDAY, Mar. 16, at 3 p.m.
MANILA	FUENSANG	SATURDAY, Mar. 17, at 3 p.m.
Kobe & Moji	KUNSAI	TUESDAY, Mar. 20, Daylight
SHANGHAI	WINGSANG	TUESDAY, Mar. 20, Daylight
HAIPHONG	YANSAI	WEDNESDAY, Mar. 21, at 3 p.m.
MANILA	LONGSANG	SATURDAY, Mar. 24, at 3 p.m.

CALCUTTA LINE.—Three sailings per month from Hongkong to Calcutta calling at Singapore and Penang.

Returning from Calcutta steamers proceed to Kobe and Moji, frequently calling at Shanghai.

These steamers have excellent passenger accommodation, are fitted with electric light and carry a fully qualified Surgeon.

SHANGHAI LINE.—Sailings approximately every five days between Canton and Shanghai, sometimes calling at Swatow.

Steamers on this line have a limited amount of passenger accommodation, and through tickets can be obtained for Northern and Yangtze Ports via Shanghai. Through Bills of Lading are issued to all Northern and Yangtze Ports via Shanghai.

MANILA LINE.—A weekly service is maintained with Manila by vessels with good passenger accommodation, sailings from both ports every Saturday.

HAIPHONG LINE.—Sailings approximately weekly for passengers and cargo, calling at Haiphong when inducement offers.

BOERNE LINE.—Two sailings per month between Hongkong and Sandakan by steamers having up-to-date accommodation for passengers.

Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for Kudat, Jesselton, Labuan, Tawau and Labud Datu.

TIENSIN LINE.—A regular service is run from March to October between Hongkong and Tientsin, calling at Weibaiwei and Chefoo.

Under Straits Government Passport Regulations. All European Passengers leaving the Colony for Straits settlement, are required to produce on arrival at destination passports with their Photographs and description affixed thereto.

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PERSEA MARU	9,000-14 knots	Mon., 16th April
KOREA MARU	18,000-18 knots	Thurs., 26th April
SIBERIA MARU	18,000-18 knots	Sat., 12th May
TENYO MARU	22,000-21 knots	Wed., 23rd May

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MOJI, KOBE, NAGOYA AND YOKOHAMA IAWA MARU, Tons 12,500, TUESDAY, 1st May at Noon.

NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA NIKKO MARU, Tons 9,600, FRIDAY, 10th March at 10 a.m.

SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA HIRANO MARU, Tons 10,000, FRIDAY, 23rd March at 11 a.m.

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Hongkong, March 27, 1866

